

# S'NAG-A-NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE COLUMBUS SEA NAGS HTTP://WWW.SEANAGS.COM

Jan 2016

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## General Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Dave Foley, Laurel Shepperd, Glenn Mitchell, Andrea Caito, Donn Ellerbrock, Marty Bailey, Ryan Jones, Steve Locsey, Adam Biehl, Gerry Kubatska, John Guegold, George Bittner, Mag Ranft, Steve Ranft

### Treasurer's Report

\$ 6,420.69

### Announcements

1. Feb 28. to Mar. 6 – **Dive Trip (Cozumel, Mexico).** Contact Mag Ranft ([magranft@hotmail.com](mailto:magranft@hotmail.com)) or Jan Stogner at [jan@caribbeandivevacations.com](mailto:jan@caribbeandivevacations.com) for more information.

2. 2016 Club membership dues are \$30.00, \$40 for husband/wife. 2016 Ohio Council dues are \$9.00.

3. Club logo patches and decals are available to new club members as a part of their membership dues. Returning members can purchase extra decals/stickers at a cost of \$1.00 each—these are plastic/waterproof--and extra patches for \$2.00 each while they last.

Dues can be mailed to:

Glenn Mitchell  
120 N. Warren Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43204

4. Facebook: You can find the Club Facebook page by going to: <http://en-gb.facebook.com/pages/Columbus-Sea-Nags-SCUBA-Divers-/289276535926?v=wall>, thanks to Andy Dennis.

5. Twitter page!! Thanks to **Josh Carney**, the club now has a **Twitter page:** <@CbusSeaNags>. Check it out today!

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

2016

### Jan

7 **General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Dive Travel Video, "The Caves, Caverns & Wreck of Cozumel"**  
21 **Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM**

### Feb

4 **General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Marty Baileys' Germany trip**  
18 **Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM**

### Mar

3 **General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: Steve Locseys' Tobermory trip**  
17 **Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM**

### Apr

7 **General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD**  
21 **Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM**

### May

5 **General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD**  
19 **Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM**  
21 **Club Dive @ Lakeview RV Park Lancaster, 9:00 AM**

### June

2 **General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD**  
11 **Twilight Dive at Circleville Dive Center, 5:00 PM**  
16 **Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM**

### July

7 **Social @ Planks, 7:00 PM No Program!**  
8 – 10 **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Whitestar Dive and Camping Trip with Twilight Dive** More details to appear in June Newsletter  
21 **Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM**

### Aug

4 **General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD**  
18 **Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM**  
TBD – **Corn Roast, Swap Meet and Twilight Dive**

### Sept

1 **General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD**  
17 **Twilight Dive @ Circleville Dive Center, 5:00 PM**  
15 **Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM**  
24 – 25 **Dive Trip to Pennyroyal Quarry, Pennyroyal Quarry Hopkinsville, KY** [www.pennyroyalscuba.com](http://www.pennyroyalscuba.com)

### Oct

6 **General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD**  
20 **Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM**

### Nov

3 **General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD**  
17 **Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM**

### Dec

1 **General Meeting @ Planks, 8:00 PM Program: TBD**  
15 **Executive Meeting @ Planks, 7:00 PM**

## Executive Meeting Highlights

Dec 16 @ Planks, 7:00 PM **Present:** Dave Foley, Ryan Jones, Glenn Mitchell, Donn Ellerbrock, Gerry Kubatska, Mag Ranft and Steve Ranft

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## All members are welcome to attend Executive Meetings

Mag Ranft provided information on a Dive Trip to Cozumel, Mexico for Feb. 28 to Mar. 6, 2016.

Steve Ranft discussed having board members contacting past members to encourage them to rejoin.

Ryan Jones reported that John Scoville is out of the hospital and getting better.

It was reported that Scuba Fest will be held for one day this year but details are not known.

Steve Ranft, Glenn Mitchell and Donn Ellerbrock will look for a dive flag. Ryan Jones made a motion to permit them to spend a reasonable amount on this flag, seconded by Mag Ranft and passed by the membership.

Steve Ranft will look into logo wear items for the club and select several items to present to the members.

## Committees

**Newsletter** Gerry Kubatska provided a list of rejected email addresses. We will try to match these up with members. Mag Ranft will print and send the newsletters that need to be mailed.

**Programs** Dave Foley and Laurel Sheppard will provide program information at least 3 months in advance

**Activities** - Ryan Jones and Steve Locsey are working on local dives, road trip dives and the corn roast. Possible trips are Natural Springs, Nelson Ledges and a dive site in Kentucky.

## Dive Reports

Please send dive reports to  
<[newsletter@seanags.com](mailto:newsletter@seanags.com)>

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### Spasms

None reported

### Oral Reports

None reported

### Written Reports

By Marty Bailey, 12/24/2015

Hi Everyone,  
Dave and I returned from Florida last weekend. We spent the previous four days cave diving, as Dave continued making progress on his full cave diver certification. We spent the first day going over our gear configurations before making a dive in Ginnie Springs in the afternoon. Dave was using side mounts and I switched back and forth between side mount and back mounted doubles. We also carried an O2 bottle for deco even though our deco times would be short since we were using 32% Nitrox for our main gas supply. We entered the EAR and swam along the main line through the gallery and the lips, after passing the keyhole Dave put in a jump line to the bone room tunnel and we swam until we hit thirds (90'/63min). It was a good warm up dive.

The next day we went back to Ginnie to work on complex navigation. We wanted to set up a circuit, but on our first dive we only managed to get a reel in at the expressway tunnel before we hit thirds and had to turn the dive (101'/54). On our exit we practiced sharing air through the lips and into the gallery. I was donating and the hoses on my side mounts are shorter than what





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left (Hill 400), and turn the dive on thirds. The dive didn't turn out so easy. Dave fought his way in the gallery on the left side and then we ran into a traffic jam on the main line near the jump to the bone room tunnel. There were at least six divers, not sure if it was 2 teams of three or 3 teams of 2, but they were on both sides of the jump and moving in different directions. As Dave was putting in the reel at the jump to Hill 400, Dave and Richard had a little tug of war as Richard tried to secure the line closer to the floor as Dave was trying to tie into the Hill 400 line. We turned the Dave on thirds, but Dave had missed a gas switch. At our turn one of his tanks was below thirds.

Dave and I will return to Florida sometime next year to get in a little more practice and then hopefully he will complete his full cave. He's only a couple of dives away, but needs to practice maintaining his thirds, while doing complex navigation, and maintaining his buoyancy while inserting reels.

I'm hoping to dive Lancaster this Sunday, where I'm going to add a couple of lines about 6 feet away from the main line creating direct lines between the cabin cruiser and the Frito- Lay truck, the cabin cruiser and the culvert and the row boat and the plane. I'll mark the main line with arrow markers like in a cave so that Dave can practice using his reels and complex navigation. I just have to get over a cold that I brought back with me from Florida.

*MB*

## ***From the President***

Happy New Year. I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays, their time with family and time off work.

Thanks to Ryan and Karla Jones for having our New Year's Eve gathering at their new home in Circleville. Ryan and Steve Locsey dove at Circleville Dive Center. There was plenty of food and drink waiting at the house when they

got back. Attending were Ryan and Karla Jones, Mag Ranft, Rick Blaine, Steve Locsey and Debi Wamsley. We welcomed in the New Year with a champagne toast at midnight and had a wonderful time.

Our schedule of events appears elsewhere in this issue and as you will see, we are going to make a few trips to dive. Our first dive trip will be to Cozumel February 28th to March 6th. Contact Mag Ranft at [magranft@hotmail.com](mailto:magranft@hotmail.com) or Jan Stogner at [jan@caribbeandivevacations.com](mailto:jan@caribbeandivevacations.com) or 1-888-462-8875 for more information. Aside from diving there are many other activities on the island including ATV tours, Mayan caves, shopping in town, Atlantis Submarine, Sunday evening party on the square downtown with a live mariachi band. A trip to the East side of the island for lunch is a treat. There is no electricity so cooking is done on grills fueled by wood, charcoal, or gas. Tables are at water's edge on the beach and the rum punch drinks are to die for. Just remember to bring cash since there is no means to process credit cards.

Ohio Council has not finished planning for Scuba Feast 2016. We have been told it will be a one day show, but at this time no other information has become available. We will let everyone know the date and location in the February newsletter. Speaking of Ohio Council, I have asked Marty Bailey to be our liaison between Ohio Council and Sea Nags. Thanks Marty.

I have asked Donn Ellerbrock to review our Bylaws and propose updates and changes which will be presented to the membership for approval. He will also take care of club officer nominations and elections.

Our first club dive will be Sat. May 21st at Lancaster R V Park 9:00 A.M. Hope to have a great turnout.

Please plan to attend our next club meeting, January 7th at Planks on Parsons Ave. Our

social hour starts at 7:00 P.M. and meeting at 8:00 P.M. The program will be The Reefs, Caves, and Wrecks of Cozumel. Hope to see you there.

Our next Exc. Board meeting will be January 21st at Planks starting at 7:00 P.M. All club members are welcome to attend.

That is all for now, stay warm and hope to see you at upcoming meetings and club events.

## ***Environmental News***

### ***Ocean Microplastic Findings Worry Scientists***

By Thomas Gronfeldt, ScubaDiverLife.com , Nov. 27, 2015

Plastic pollution may be even more pervasive in our oceans than we think — or can even see

Most of us, and definitely those who are concerned with the marine environment, know about the problem of plastic in our oceans. This debris poses all manner of threats to animals, from accidental ingestion to entanglement. Plastics also release toxins into the water as they degrade. And while large-scale plastic debris, such as the now infamous Great Pacific Garbage Patch, draws headlines, new research indicates that the problem might be much more insidious than we first thought — keep in mind that when small animals consume small pieces of plastic, those animals are in turn eaten by larger animals, until the plastic works its way up the food chain and eventually ends up in human food.

Danish researchers working on the Danish Technological University's (DTU) Aqua faculty have just published findings from a new plastic research project in the publication *Marine Pollution Bulletin*. For the first time, scientists have been able to measure and detect plastic down to 1/100 of a millimeter, so-called

microplastic, which was previously far too small to be measured. Until now the smallest plastic debris that scientists were able to measure was 0.3 millimeter.

On average, the researchers found one item of plastic per two liters of seawater, and much more during tests conducted closer to shore. The tests were done during 2004, in numerous locations from the Sargasso Sea to the U.S. East Coast. Samples were taken in water up to 20 feet deep.

Professor Torkel Gissel Nielsen of DTU says that new measuring and sampling techniques allowed the researchers to update their findings, and the results are worrying.

“Using special analysis techniques, we’ve deliberately targeted plastic down to 1/100 of a millimeter, and when doing that, a whole new picture emerges,” he says. “Suddenly you see just how ubiquitous plastic is in the oceans. It’s really quite scary.”

One of the primary problems with microplastic, as stated above, is that due to the minute sizes of the pieces, it may enter the food chain as it is consumed by marine animals.

“The smallest pieces of plastic we’ve examined are so small that they have been proven to be absorbed by animal plankton during lab trials,” says Robin Lenz, a research assistant from DTU who has worked on the project. “Because of this, it is realistic to assume that they have already entered the marine food chain.”

But the problem doesn’t end with the plastic itself being consumed; it’s further aggravated by what goes with the plastic.

“A range of other chemicals that find their way into the oceans are able to bind with the

plastic,” says Nielsen. “This includes oils, brominated flame retardants and phthalates (such as BPA), used as softening agents in plastic products. That way, microplastic can become little, chemical missiles.”

Microplastic sources can be anything from larger plastic items that have broken down over time to small plastic beads added to cosmetics as exfoliators, which are washed down countless bathroom sinks every day. California recently banned the use of plastic exfoliators in all cosmetic products sold in the state beginning in 2020, a step that other states and nations are urged to emulate. You can help prevent more plastic entering our oceans with choices small and large — don't buy single-use plastic items or products with microbeads, and when you do buy plastic, make sure it's recycled properly.

Source:

<http://scubadiverlife.com/2015/11/27/ocean-microplastic-findings-worry-scientists/>

## *Log Book*

### *A stay at the Planet Ocean Underwater Hotel will be a drop in the ocean*

By Stu Robarts, December 4, 2015



Hotel rooms will boast panoramic views through clear acrylic wall and ceiling panels (Credit: Planet Ocean Underwater Hotel)

The world of underwater hotels seems to be saturated with promises as much as it does promise. One firm hoping to make waves is

Planet Ocean Underwater Hotel. It is waiting for a developer to splash out on one of its "world first fully self-contained affordable mini-luxury underwater hotels."

We've seen a number of underwater hotel concepts and projects in the past, such as those from Poseidon Resorts and the Water Discus Hotel. Planet Ocean Underwater Hotel claims, however, that its prefab, modular design can be delivered faster, cheaper and more scalably than anything else.

Based on the Florida island of Key West, the company says that many of its competitors are offering designs that will cost in the region of US\$11 million per guest room to construct and estimates resulting nightly rates of \$4,000-\$6,000. In contrast, it says its approach will only cost around \$1.7 million per room, with a standard 12-room deployment therefore costing about \$20 million. For guests, this would mean nightly room-rates in the more affordable region of \$3,000-\$6,000.

The proposed structure of the hotel comprises thick double-welded steel and sheets of thick, clear acrylic. A modular design means that its pods could be prefabricated in a factory and transported to site complete. An on-site assembly process will then be carried out with the use of a support vessel, and is likened to constructing a space station.

Managing Director of Planet Ocean Underwater Hotel Tony Webb tells Gizmag that fabrication time for the steel will be about 16 weeks, while fitting the support equipment, furnishings and other components will take a further six months. The hotel will have a cylindrical shape to help spread the pressure of the surrounding water evenly around its structure.

The hotels will be deployed at a depth of around 28 ft (8.5 m), with a pressure of around 1 atm (101,325 Pa). Using electromechanical propulsion technology, they will be able to move themselves so as to be able to relocate to safer waters in the event of a hurricane.

Guests will access the hotels via an elevator. Among the sections will be a 14 x 80-ft (4.3 x 24.4-m) central corridor and a 16 x 60-ft (4.9 x 18.3-m) air-conditioned lounge. There will also be twelve 18 x 12-ft (5.5 x 3.7-m) bedrooms, which will each have a king-size bed, a bathroom and toilet, a refrigerator, internet access and audio-visual entertainment systems. In addition, they will boast panoramic views through their clear acrylic wall and ceiling viewing panels.

In addition to offering a unique place to stay, the hotels will be available for hosting events such as weddings, meetings, lunches and dinners. It is hoped that a philanthropic side to the project will help to fund and implement a worldwide proven Biorock coral reef restoration and aquaculture solutions and technologies.

Planet Ocean Underwater Hotel has been in development for two-and-a-half years and is now ready to enter a testing phase. In addition, Webb tells Gizmag that it has received two sales enquiries over the last 48 hours from a group based in the Philippines and Singapore, and another based in Qatar. Over 200 enquiries about future reservations have also been made, he says.

Source:

<http://www.gizmag.com/planet-ocean-underwater-hotel/40753/>

<http://www.planetoceanunderwaterhotel.com/>

## **Colombia says treasure-laden San Jose galleon found**

By BBC.com, December 5, 2015



President Juan Manuel Santos described the find as "one of the greatest in history"



The wreck of a Spanish ship laden with treasure that was sunk by the British more than 300 years ago has been found off the Colombian coast, says President Juan Manuel Santos.

"Great news! We have found the San Jose galleon," the president tweeted.

The wreck was discovered near the port city of Cartagena.

It has been described as the holy grail of shipwrecks, as the ship was carrying one of the largest amounts of valuables ever to have been lost at sea.

Mr Santos said the cargo was worth at least

\$1bn (£662m).

The San Jose was carrying gold, silver, gems and jewellery collected in the South American colonies to be shipped to Spain's king to help finance his war of succession against the British when it was sunk in June 1708.

The vessel was attacked by a British warship just outside Cartagena.

Colombian officials would not reveal the precise location of the wreck, but Mr Santos said the find "constitutes one of the greatest - if not the biggest, as some say - discoveries of submerged patrimony in the history of mankind".

He said that a museum would be built in Cartagena to house the ship's treasures.

Ownership of the wreck has been the subject of a long-running legal row.

The Colombian government did not mention its long-running quarrel with US-based salvage company Sea Search Armada (SSA) over claims to the treasure.

A group now owned by SSA said in 1981 that it had located the area in which the ship sank.

SSA has been claiming billions of dollars for breach of contract from the Colombian government, but in 2011 an American court ruled that the galleon was the property of the Colombian state.

Source:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-35014600>

## **Divers clean up failed Florida reef project from '70s**

By CBS, stsp.com December 16, 2015



*Diver Thomas Pennypacker is on a rescue mission off the coast of Ft. Lauderdale, saving a piece of Florida's natural coral reef. A massive 35-acre graveyard of old tires.*

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. -- An attempt to save Florida coral is wrecking the reef instead. Apparently, they didn't think through what seawater does to metal.

The divers are off before dawn.

Diver Thomas Pennypacker is on a rescue mission off the coast of Ft. Lauderdale, saving a piece of Florida's natural coral reef. A massive 35-acre graveyard of old tires.

It started as a way to get rid of tires clogging up landfills back in 1970. Up to two million tires, bundled by metal clips, were dumped to create an artificial reef. The hope was that they would spur coral growth and attract fish, all good for the environment.

Florida divers trying to clean up failed tire reef

Really good idea -- really bad outcome. The clips rusted away, the tires broke free.

Storms and constant ocean currents keep the tires moving, dragging across and damaging the fragile living reef nearby, said Alex Delgado



the dive coordinator.

"Right now it's just a wasteland," he said. "It's tires everywhere. Now we need to correct it before it does additional damage."

The tires have spread too, all the way as far as the beaches of Fort Lauderdale.

Surrounded by a seemingly endless mound of tires, Pennypacker slings them onto lines to be hauled up by a crane until he and his team fetch as many as 600 on a good day. It's a race against time.

Pat Quinn, natural resources specialist for Broward County, said if they don't get out of there, the tires will be there forever.

So far, Florida state funding will bring the number of recovered tires to about 160,000, not enough, experts say, to protect a reef 7,000 years in the making.

Source:

<http://www.wtsp.com/story/news/2015/12/16/divers-clean-up-failed-florida-reef-project-70s/77456806/>

## Parting Shots



NYE Party at Ryan & Karla Jones' house. In the picture is

*Rick Blaine, Steve Locsey, Debi Wamsley, Ryan Jones and Mag Ranft(Above)*

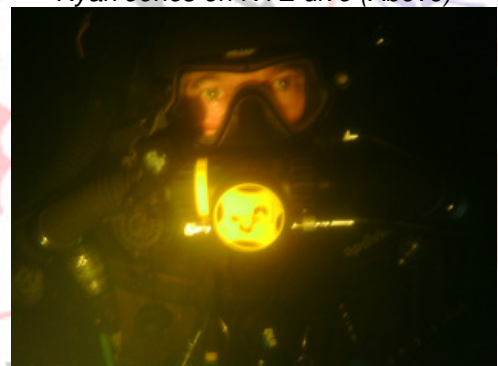
**Photo's from Steve Locsey on the NYE dive with Ryan Jones**



*Dutch doll on semi trailer (Above)*



*Ryan Jones on NYE dive (Above)*



*Steve Locsey on NYE dive (Above)*

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## AD Rates

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1/4 Page \$10.00  
1/2 Page \$20.00  
Full Page \$30.00

Club members receive a 10% discount on advertising rates. Non-members receive a 10% discount for three months paid in advance.



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**NEXT MEETING: 8:00 p.m., Plank's Café, Thurs., Jan 7, 2016. Program: Dive Travel Video, "The Caves, Caverns & Wreck of Cozumel".**

The Columbus Sea Nags

